

POWELL MISSED

Wycombe manager nits out at 'joke' sacking

TED POWELL, who took over as manager of Wycombe Wanderers F.C. in July last year, has been dismissed. This shock news was announced by the club on Friday and prompted heated comments from the manager writes Stuart Earp.

The reason behind the decision to dismiss the manager is this. On hearing that Mr Powell had applied for a full time coaching post abroad, club chairman Mr Reg Williams decided after consultation with his committee, that Wycombe Wanderers could not afford to wait and see whether Mr Powell took the job.

They felt that the current state of the season was so delicate and important, especially with plans to be made for next season, that they could not afford to wait. They therefore unanimously decided that it was in the best interest of the club to appoint a new manager.

Ted Powell was bitterly disappointed with the club's decision. He said that he informed the chairman last week that he had applied for the position of Director of Coaching and Coach to the national team in Malawi in Southern Africa. He was later asked to resign by Mr Williams.

Mr Powell pointed out

that he had only applied for the job — it had not been offered to him — and that he might not have taken the position, even if he was successful. Whichever way things went, he would not have left the club until August.

'STUPID'

He added: "It is stupid to jeopardise the players' chances of winning something this season. The new manager won't know what plans I have made — and I won't be able to tell him about the players."

I think the chairman has been misguided and I am bitterly disappointed with him. The club is only as good as its chairman and Mr Williams has undone everything I have tried to do at Wycombe."

I wanted the club to wait and see whether I got the job in Malawi and sure-

"When I came to Wycombe I thought it was a good club and I wanted to work with better players. But I'm ambitious like any other man and it is only right that one should better oneself."

AT SUTTON

Mr Powell explained that this situation had arisen when he was manager at Sutton United, the club he left to take over at Wycombe. Whilst there, he applied for a top coaching job in Hong Kong. He informed his chairman who was prepared to wait and in the end, Mr Powell decided against the job and stayed with the club.

The job in Malawi, which carries a salary in the region of £10,000, was too good an opportunity to miss and there were nine other applicants for the

"In any case, the club would only have had to wait until the end of March before knowing if I had taken the job."

SAME AGAIN

"The whole situation has been badly handled. I was honest with the chairman of the club but if I hadn't said anything about applying for the job, I would still have been manager. Yet I wanted to be honest with him and keep him in the picture. I would do exactly the same again if the situation arose because I think it is morally right."

How this whole situation will affect the players remains to be seen but it is bound to cause some reaction.

Club captain Keith Mead told me: "Obviously this will be in the back of the players minds and we are disappointed. Ted is an excellent coach and did a good job for us this season. It is a great shock but our job is to play for Wycombe Wanderers and as professional and responsible people, that is what we will do."

Since taking over as manager Ted Powell, a former player with Wycombe, has guided the club's run of success in the Isthmian League. Wycombe currently placed third in the table. He also guided them to the second round of the F.A. Cup but there was disappointment when they lost 2-1 to Reading at Loakes Park.

More success came in the F.A. Trophy when they reached the second round before going out to Runcorn but on the debit side, Wycombe's shock defeat at Hungerford in the Berks and Bucks Senior Cup was a major embarrassment.



TED POWELL
... dismissed

BLUES THIRD

ROTHMANS
ISTHMIAN LEAGUE
DIVISION ONE
(Up to and inc. 21/3/77)

Enfield	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Enfield	35	20	9	6	64	21	69
Grays	32	19	6	7	67	29	63
Wycombe	32	12	8	12	49	59	59
Ilford	34	17	5	12	56	37	56
Leatherhead	34	17	5	12	56	37	56
Woking	32	16	11	5	60	39	55
Tring	30	13	8	11	60	43	48
Hemel Hempstead	32	13	8	11	47	46	48
Leightonstone	33	12	10	11	47	46	46
Barking	33	13	5	15	46	68	44
St Albans	28	13	4	9	34	37	43
Sheff	28	12	6	10	30	31	41
Croydon	29	11	6	12	29	31	39
Sutton	33	6	10	16	26	59	29
Southall	34	11	6	17	43	58	39
Barnet	23	11	5	17	26	18	38
Bishop's	32	10	8	14	40	42	38
Congleton	34	11	6	18	38	60	38
Woking	34	9	7	18	40	56	34
Woking	33	9	8	15	28	56	32
Hayes	30	8	7	15	30	53	31
Dulwich	30	4	7	19	30	53	19



JOHN REARDON
... takes over

Reardon in charge until end of season

JOHN Reardon, Wycombe Wanderers assistant manager for several years, has taken over as manager until the end of the season following last week's departure of Ted Powell. He was in charge of Wanderers on Saturday when they drew 1-1 at Bishop's Cleeve.

Mr Reardon has a long association with Wycombe and was assistant to Brian Lee during the club's most successful period when they won four league titles and reached the F.A. Cup third round for the first time.

When Brian Lee retired from the management, John Reardon agreed to stay on to assist Ted Powell.

The highlight of Mr

Reardon's management came in 1968 when he took Chesham United to the final of the Amateur Cup when they lost to Leytonstone. He had previously been a player with United and also managed the reserves.

A man respected and much liked by the players, Mr Reardon, 44, has the task of keeping the club's league title interests alive before the position of new manager is reviewed at the end of the season.

DAGGERS GO NAP

A CLUB from the South will be in the final of the F.A. Trophy for the first time in five years, later this season, Dagenham drew 1-1 with Reading in the quarter-final replay and they now meet Slough for two legs in the semi-final.

There was never any doubt about the Daggers getting through. They scored twice in the first 10 minutes and although Chorley pulled one back, two more goals before half ensured the Essex club of victory. Another second goal made it

a nap hand. Mal Harkins (2), Neville Fox (2) and Joe Darnell hit the goals. On Saturday Dagenham drew 1-1 at Chorley, who had previously knocked out Wimbledon, with Fox scoring their goal.

Dave Russell, who was playing for Flockwell Heath last season, was Slough's hero in their quarter-final win over Morecambe on Saturday. He hit both goals.

The other semi-final is between Scarborough or Nuneaton v Altrincham.